

From: Afgncaap
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:12am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

After having read about the proposed settlement, I felt compelled to add my own opinion to the volume of opinions given under the Tunney act.

The settlement, like it or not, smacks of appeasement. It seems to do little to diminish anti-competitive practices. I'm going to make the leap of faith and assume that this was indeed intended; I'm positive that the Department of Justice has sufficient legal resources to determine the numbers and effects of the loopholes present in the settlement as proposed. Therefore, I have to wonder, what is the DoJ trying to accomplish. My best guess is that concern over the economic state of the United States is at the forefront of the DoJ's collective mind, and that the desire is not to quell ANY successful business, on the theory that to diminish the power and market share of a major company would be a blow to Wall Street and the economy.

I would ask that you reconsider. Squelching Microsoft's anti-competitive behaviour is in the best interests of the economy as a whole. Even severely limited in her ability to market and dispense her products, Microsoft will still be a strong force in the computing world. Nothing will change that short of destroying the company completely. Enough people know and trust Microsoft, with her unparalleled ease of use and the widespread familiarity with her OS and applications, that Microsoft will continue to be the number one for years to come. On the other hand, permitting competing products like MacOS, Linux, and the various other OSes and products like AOL's Netscape and the lesser known Mozilla the opportunity to prove themselves to the open market can only help the viability of these other companies, and increase job availability and tax revenues.

I don't propose destroying Microsoft. It's a valuable company that it is in the best interests of the United States to keep strong. But Microsoft will not see its strength diminished by the presence of other competitors.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Meixner

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